



NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Pleads No Contest in Fatal Hit-and-Run of Cyclist in Gardena

A 23-year-old woman pleaded no contest today to three counts stemming from a fatal hit-and-run of a bicyclist in Gardena last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Vanessa Marie Yanez entered her plea to one count each of leaving the scene of an accident and perjury, both felonies, and misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter. Yanez is expected to be sentenced to two years in state prison on Sept. 25.

Deputy District Attorney Philip Norris said Yanez struck a bicyclist on June 26, 2013, while driving eastbound on El Segundo Boulevard in Gardena. Jesse Dotson Jr., 60, died from injuries suffered in the crash.

Yanez fled after the collision and reported her vehicle stolen the following morning, the prosecutor said.

The case was investigated by the Gardena Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.